



Summer Meals Newsletter

JANUARY 2017 • SPONSORS

WHILE MOST ARE SETTLING IN FOR WINTER,
WE'RE HARD AT WORK GEARING UP FOR SUMMER!

Upcoming USDA and Partner Events

January 5, 1:00 PM EST |
**Mapping the Gap of the
Summer Nutrition Programs
Webinar (Summer Meals
Matter Monthly Training Series)**
| Food Research and Action Center
(FRAC)

2017 Anti-Hunger Policy Conference: Register Now!

There's still time to register for the [2017 National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference](#), taking place March 5-7, 2017 in Washington, D.C.!

Co-sponsored by FRAC and Feeding America, the National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference brings together anti-hunger leaders from community organizations, advocacy groups, and state, local, and Federal government.

Register by January 13 to take advantage of the Early Bird rate.

Happy New Year!

What's New Fall Policy Release

Last month, FNS issued new policy guidance on the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Topics include area eligibility, meal disallowances, automatic revocation of tax-exempt status, and the Seamless Summer Option (SSO). The SFSP Q&A memo was also updated.

Read the new SFSP memos [here](#).
Read the new SSO memo [here](#).

Local and state anti-hunger leaders are encouraged to apply for scholarships to attend the conference!

To apply for a scholarship, simply register for the conference as a **Scholarship Applicant. You'll be asked to explain your interest in the conference, and will be told if you've received a scholarship at a later date.**

Read more information [here](#).

Summer Spotlight: Farm to Summer

Summer is a time of rich agricultural abundance and sponsors across the country are benefiting from the season's bounty by including local products and food-related activities into their summer meals programs. Now is the perfect time to connect with your local agriculture community and begin planning for [Farm to Summer](#) success! Summer meal sponsors and sites can incorporate Farm to Summer activities into their programs by serving locally sourced items in their meals and snacks or offering educational activities that teach children about local foods and healthy habits.



Farm to Summer can help you as a sponsor:

Add New Sites

Consider serving meals at eligible farmers markets or community gardens. Begin talking with market and garden managers now, so you are ready for service at the start of the season.

Increase Attendance

Explore the possibility of starting a garden or see if a local farmer would be a guest speaker. You can find state-specific educational resources, such as coloring sheets, games, and lesson plans, online at [My Plate, My State](#).

Improve Meal Quality

Reach out to your local cooperative extension office to see which producers you may be able to purchase from or ask your vendor if they buy from any local farms. Review menus to determine where you may be able to include local and seasonal products and create marketing materials to highlight your farm-to-table program.

The earlier you plant the Farm to Summer seed, the more bountiful your program will be! For more ideas on how to grow your program, contact your [state](#) or [regional](#) farm to school specialist, or visit the [USDA Farm to Summer website](#).